



View from the Blackdown Hills

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Issue No 128 September 2015

Race to protect pubs

■ A GROUP of 10 students, along with staff from Uffculme Academy, were recently part of a group of 200 plus students from the UK who spent two weeks visiting China.

During the trip they went on a bullet train, visited a university campus, enjoyed a busy programme of education, historical and cultural visits and learnt Mandarin Chinese.

Among the places visited in China



Students' trip to China

were The Forbidden City, Mount Laoshan, Tian'anmen Square,

the Summer Palace, temples, museums and exhibitions and

Beijing zoo, with the final day walking the Great Wall.

A RALLYING call has been issued to protect the few remaining pubs in the Blackdown Hills, following the publication of new figures that suggest as many as 29 drinking establishments are closing every week in the UK.

Campaigners hope to list several of the area's pubs as "community assets" in an effort to ensure their survival.

Under the planning rules, listed pubs could be protected by law for a length of time before being converted for alternative use or bulldozed.

Members of the community would be given a period of time to put together a business plan to rescue establishments recognised as "assets of community value".

The Kings Arms in Stockland was the first building to be listed as a community asset by East Devon District Council two-years-ago and efforts are continuing to save the pub.

An application has also been submitted to register the Yarcombe Inn and EDDC planners are expected to make a decision next month.

Meanwhile, the Campaign for Real Ale is determined to add 3,000 more pubs to the list by the end of 2016.

CAMRA spokesman Tom Stainer said the target was ambitious but that meeting it is essential in order to secure the future of struggling pubs - in the Blackdown Hills and

across the country.

"Holes in the current planning system allow pubs to be sold off, demolished or converted to many other uses without planning permission or the involvement of the local community," he said.

"However, when a pub is nominated as an asset of community value it automatically receives planning protection, meaning it is no longer a soft target to would-be developers looking to quickly purchase and convert or demolish

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Getting back to nature

'Wild Woodlanders' project brings families closer together

A COMMUNITY enterprise is celebrating helping 100 Taunton residents find new skills and confidence by spending quality time in the woods.

Neroche Woodlanders, a social enterprise based at Young Wood near Staple Fitzpaine, has just completed a third year of its highly-successful project entitled Wild Learning, with funding from the People's Health Lottery, Somerset Skills & Learning and Taunton Association for the Homeless.

Wild Learning worked with more than 40 adults and 60 children during a 12 month period, providing a welcome change of scene for families from the Halcon and Priorswood areas in Taunton, who face a range of challenges including homelessness, long-term unemployment, learning difficulties and family pressures. They were referred through support agencies including Taunton Deane Borough Council community team, Taunton Association for the Homeless and the Prospect Job Club.

Twenty sessions were held in the woods specifically for adults, who learned about woodland wildlife, practiced traditional skills like green woodworking, and helped to conserve the forest environment. Participants carved bowls and spoons, cooked together on the campfire, and went searching for signs of nature through the seasons.

Twelve family days were run on Saturdays throughout the year. Families worked and played together, building shelters, using tools, creating fairy dens, cooking together on the fire and exploring nature. The project ended with an overnight camp, with families who had never camped before experiencing this for the first time in a wild setting. The camp enabled many to experience real darkness for the first time.

As well as bringing people to the woods, Woodlanders also ran an after-school club at Halcon Primary School, bringing parents into the school grounds to enjoy time with their children, whittling wands, and cooking popcorn over a camp fire.

Jenny Archard who led the project, said: "We know that the woods provide a powerful setting for people to find out more about themselves, build family relationships, pick up new skills and interests, and also feel they are contributing something back to nature. The peaceful, natural surroundings of a wild woodland strips away a lot of the stresses of everyday life, and



■ WILD Learners receive their certificates at Young Wood

helps people to heal and recharge themselves."

Feedback showed that participants gained confidence, felt less isolated, discovered new practical skills, and benefitted from positive interactions with others.

"We provide a non-judgmental atmosphere, in a very natural setting," said Jenny.

"We allow learners to explore new interests, and gain a sense of achievement. There is always a campfire at the centre of things, with the kettle on, and cooking food collectively is also an important part of the experience."

At the end of the project, the adults taking part talked of having grown in confidence as a result of the time spent at Young Wood, and having learned to take a lead in their own lives.

Neroche Woodlanders used the John Muir Award as a basis for the project. The award, named after the famous Scottish-American wilderness explorer and campaigner, allows participants to earn a certificate for completing a simple portfolio of learning. For those without many existing formal qualifications, this provided an important sense of achievement.

Gavin Saunders, who worked alongside Jenny on the project said: "Taunton has its problems and its areas of deprivation, but it is fortunate to have some amazing wild woodlands right on its doorstep. Through this project we can help people who seldom get the chance to do so, to benefit from those woodlands."

Neroche Woodlanders are currently seeking funding to run a fourth season of Wild Learning starting in September.

your views & letters

email your letters to lisa@pemedial.co.uk

Is Wellington monument the highest point on the hills?

I HAVE been interested in history since a child and, on picking up a copy of your interesting paper, I was immediately drawn to the Wellington/Waterloo article.

For about 65 years I have known Staple Hill to be the hills' highest point, so I was startled to read that the monument "stands at the highest point of the Blackdown Hills".

My OS map (Landranger series no 193) marks Staple Hill's height (above mean sea level) as 315 metres (about 1034 ft); it is situated just east of the B3170 road's junction with the hills' ridge road, the intersection being east of the Holman Clavel pub.

The map shows the elevation at that junction to be 299 metres. The map does not give the height of Wellington Hill, on which the monument stands, but it marks the elevation on the road immediately south of the monument as 254m.

According to the contours there is precious little difference between that height and the base of the mon-

ument. It is possible that the top of the monument is higher than Staple Hill, one would need to know the structure's height. But that is not what your article claims.

I believe you should print a correction.

Is it possible to tell readers the times and dates on which the obelisk will be illuminated? If not please say how we can find out.

J Duncan Oliver MA

Editor's note: Mr Oliver is, of course, correct. Even if the height of the monument (53m or 174ft) were added to the 299 metres of the hill it would still not top Staple Hill and we apologise for the error.

We have contacted the National Trust about future illumination of the monument but there don't appear to be any specific plans at present. A spokesman said: "Now that we have the lights in place, we hope to use them on other special occasions but won't use them regularly for a range of environmental reasons."

Churches raise £692 for Nepal

MEMBERS of St Mary's church, Hemyock have raised more than £600 to buy a Shelterbox to send to Nepal following the recent earthquake.

Thanks to All Saints Church, Culmstock which is part of the Upper Culm Valley Mission Community, who donated £100 following a coffee morning, the final amount sent to the charity was £692. The additional money will be used to buy tools.

Thanks were expressed to all those who contributed.

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Race to save village pubs from closure

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the pub - which in some instances has literally happened overnight."

Mr Stainer said any group of at least 21 local people could get together to nominate a pub - a process that could be led by parish councils or CAMRA branches.

The campaign is also offering advice and guidance to help communities in the Blackdown Hills lead the fight against closures.

Tony Simpson, a local historian and CAMRA member is leading the calls for action in nearby Honiton. But the campaign warns that hundreds of other communities across the South West are in a similar position.

Mr Simpson said: "We seem to have an abundance of coffee houses and cafes but fewer and fewer local inns."

"These public houses are historical and important to our economic future since both locals and visitors appreciate a variety of local inns in the town centre."

"We need to do everything we can to protect our great tradition of local pubs."

James to tackle triple Ironman

JAMES Page is a normal family man taking on a not so normal challenge in September when he will be taking part in the Brutal Events Triple Ironman - Continuous in Snowdonia National Park, North Wales.

The distances are somewhat daunting - 7.2 mile swim in 12 degree water temperature, 348 miles on the bike with just over 32,000 feet of ascent and 78 mile run, three marathons back to back with the first part of the run up to the summit of Snowdon.

James decided to take on the triple having completed the Double Iron Triathlon in 2013 completing the course in 37 hours 19 minutes. He's now going for the triple to raise money for three children's charities - one for each Iron distance - which have touched his heart over the years.

The first charity is the Taunton Opportunity Group (TOG), a pre-school for children

with multi-sensory needs. James' daughter Maddy was born with congenital heart disease and Peters Plus Syndrome, among a host of other medical concerns and spent her early years attending TOG being stimulated there. More recently one of James' friend's sons was also treated by TOG making a real difference to their development.

The second charity is Child Bereavement UK who support families, helping them to deal with bereavement, vital when there is a death of a child or a child who has to deal with the death of their parents or siblings.

The third charity is Birmingham Children's Hospital and in particular for the treatment and research of Child Brain Tumour, after a friend's niece who has since birth been supported and treated by the hospital.

James has been training solidly since signing up for the race back in November last year.

As part of his build up he has swum, cycled and run thousands of miles. He has taken on a number of challenges as part of his training which on their own would be a massive feat of achievement themselves. Some of the highlights so far have been; The Oner, an 82-mile coastal run along the South West Coast Path from Charmouth to Studland, which he completed in 23 hours 25 minutes; Hope 24, a multi-terrain trail run where James battled through pain and tears over 24 hours to complete 100 miles of running and placing sixth out of 80 solo entrants; and a 404km Audax which he completed in 20 hours and two minutes.

To follow James' journey visit Twitter and follow @ironjedibra or visit his blog <http://www.triblogs.com/blog/Ironjedi/>

You can donate to his cause by visiting his charity page <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/JamesPage1>



■ **JAMES Page** who is aiming to complete a triple Ironman endurance challenge to raise money for three children's charities



■ **JAMES Page** in training for his triple Ironman challenge

Investigation into parachute death

AN investigation into the "tragic" death of a parachutist at Dunkeswell Airfield has been launched.

Chris Jones, 61, who was head of chemistry at Wellington School in Somerset, died at the airfield, near Honiton, on Friday, July 31st.

The British Parachute Association has begun making inquiries to determine the exact nature of Mr Jones' death, although the circumstances are not thought to be suspicious.

Originally from the Pontyclun area of South Wales, Mr Jones had been a member of staff at Wellington for 13 years.

He was also a qualified skydiving instructor who had taken part in more than 1,000 jumps.

The school's headmaster, Henry Price, described Mr Jones as a "fine schoolmaster and a well-respected colleague".

He said: "Chris was deeply committed to his teaching of chemistry as well as serving the boarding community."

"The community is deeply saddened by the



■ **CHRIS Jones, 61, died at Dunkeswell Airfield on July 31st.**

sudden and tragic death and our thoughts are with Chris' wife Liz, their three children and all of his family and friends."

A spokesperson for Dunkeswell Aerodrome said: "The British Parachute Association board of inquiry will investigate the accident and, when completed, will submit reports to the coroner, the police, the Civil Aviation Authority, and any other relevant authorities."

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Students make the grade

STUDENTS from across the Blackdown Hills are celebrating the results of their A-Level and GCSE exams.

It has been another strong year for A-Level students at Wellington School with 40 per cent of grades at A*-A – well above the national average – and 72 per cent of grades in the A*-B range.

With almost a third of the grades at AS level recording the top A grade, Wellington students are well placed for further success next year.

Headmaster, Henry Price said: "I would like to congratulate the Wellington leavers on their academic successes. They were a fabulous year group, with a good work ethic and a real commitment to life at Wellington."

"To see nearly three quarters of their grades score A*-B is wonderful and evidence of the hard work of both pupils and staff. Once the remarks have been processed, I have no doubt that these grades will improve even further."

"I am delighted that our two Oxbridge candidates, Joe Beavan and Alice Cambridge, both secured their places with three A* grades. Equally, there were a number of pupils who achieved or exceeded their targeted grades and I wish all our leavers well as they head off to university or a gap year."

"I would particularly like to thank the Head of Sixth Form, Mr Millington for his hard work

and energy throughout the year, and also the departing Dr Daniel who has overseen the academic side of the School for the last five years so professionally."

It has also been another strong year for GCSE results at Wellington School. Nearly three quarters of GCSE grades at Wellington School scored A*-B with 43 per cent at A*-A.

Mr Price, said: "I am very pleased with this set of results and I would like to congratulate all the pupils for their hard work. We had well over a hundred pupils sitting GCSE examinations this year and I am delighted by so many individual success stories contained in these statistics."

Queen's College students at Taunton are also celebrating another very good year of A-Level results.

All students who applied for Oxbridge were able to accept their places and almost every student gained a place at their chosen university.

Seventeen students achieved straight A*s and As and 72 per cent of papers were graded A*-B, enabling the vast majority of students to access top universities.

Headmaster Chris Alcock said: "These are extremely pleasing results, reflecting excellent teaching, and are a tribute to some exceptional work on the part of our students."

"We wish them well as they prepare to embark upon a diverse range of



■ QUEEN'S College students Kate Hanmer Will Macdonagh Theo Elmor Will Moeew and Georgia McDonald celebrate their A-Level results



■ WELLINGTON School students Joe Beaven and Alice Cambridge both secured Oxbridge University offers

educational courses and career paths."

Among the Queen's students celebrating is Josh Cogan who achieved straight As and has accepted a place at

the TU Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands where he will study Aerospace Engineering.

Amelia Sturt also achieved straight A

grades. She has secured a place at Exeter University, Penryn campus to study Business Management. Amelia spent the entire A2 examination period in hospital with serve angioedema yet despite this she was able to sit her exams and has won a scholarship from the university.

Year 11 students from Queen's College are celebrating an impressive set of GCSE results achieving 45 per cent A*-A grades.



■ THE amateur florists with their bouquets

Floristry workshop is a family affair

LOCAL women who recently attended a flower arranging workshop at Combe St Nicholas Village Hall, near Chard each produced stunning hand-tied floral designs that wowed their families and friends.

The workshop was held to show anyone who is interested in flowers that even with no experience they can produce a beautiful, innovative arrangement in a relaxing, fun atmosphere.

Among the students were three generations of one family; Flo Petersen, her daughter Gillian Slade and granddaughter Kirsty Slade (pictured below).

Flo, from Combe St Nicholas said: "I never believed I'd be able to do something like this, I love what I've made. It was such a lovely, friendly morning. My neighbour was very impressed with my arrangement. My daughter and

grand-daughter were really pleased with theirs too, well be coming again."

Tutor Jackie Nicholls from Ashville Design said: "There is nothing better than getting together with people who love flowers and are keen to learn, it's so therapeutic and we always have a laugh along the way. This workshop was full of enthusiasm, excitement and fun."

"It's so rewarding when my passion for flowers is shared, particularly by those who have never done anything like this before. I'm so proud of everyone who came along and what they achieved and am really looking forward to the next workshop in September."

For more information contact Jackie on 07906 259 683 or visit www.ashvilledesign.co.uk.



■ FROM left Flo Petersen, Gillian Slade and Kirsty Slade



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Preserving a piece of 2015 to mark opening of new hall



■ **CHILDREN** from Broadhembury Primary School with the time capsule which was buried at the new memorial hall in the village (right)

CHILDREN from Broadhembury Primary School, near Honiton, have buried a time capsule to mark the opening of a new hall for the village.

The new Memorial Hall for Broadhembury will be officially opened on September 26th.

Before the end of term pupils from Broadhembury Primary

School were invited to visit the new hall site which they will use for their PE lessons and other activities.

They were also invited to carry a time capsule to the hall to be buried.

Charlie-Ann Swan and Zachary Jennings were appointed as bearers of the time capsule, which they received from hall trustee Ron Taylor, on the steps of the Village Post Of-

fice Stores and Tea Room, where items had been donated.

A procession of schoolchildren and staff followed the time capsule to the new hall site, where, after a short address from the chairman of hall trustees, John Bull, the capsule was placed by Charlie-Ann and Zachary, in position, ready to be covered in concrete.



■ **PATRICK McCaig** (centre right) visited Sandy Park – home of Exeter Chiefs – to present the cheques to Marc Astley (left), trustee of the Exeter Foundation, Caroline Creer, fundraising director of Devon Air Ambulance Trust, and Richard Cousins, corporate relationships manager for Hospiscare.

Silver celebration boost for charities

ONE of the Blackdown's leading breweries has raised thousands of pounds for worthy causes following its recent silver anniversary celebrations.

The Otter Brewery, based in Luppitt, near Honiton, has collected more than £7,500 for charity.

Established in 1990 by David and Mary Ann McCaig, the family-run business marked 25 years behind the bar by supporting three local charities.

The money was raised over two nights as the brewery hosted a party for landlords, suppliers and associates, followed two days later by a black tie charity ball attended by 340 guests.

Some of the cash will be put towards the running costs of the new King's House day hospice in Honiton, while thousands more will help the Devon Air

Ambulance remain in the skies this year.

The remainder of the money will go towards the Exeter Foundation, a civic trust affiliated with the Exeter Chiefs Rugby Club, which supports 18 other charities for people with physical and learning difficulties.

Patrick McCaig, sales and marketing director at Otter Brewery, presented each of the charities with a cheque for £2,555 last week.

"As a family-run business, a big part of our community work is supporting local charities that are close to our heart," said Mr McCaig.

"We chose these three specifically because of the rapport we have with them and the invaluable work they do."



Queen's College Open Days

Nursery, Pre-Prep and Junior School

9:00am - 12:00 noon, Friday 9th October

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Blackdowns clubs and organisations

Clayhidon Friends

MEMBERS and their guests enjoyed a heartening presentation last month with Tim Simmons of "The Woolly Shepherd" and his wife Marty.

Tim talked to members about the properties of wool, of acoustics and the origins of their business, but eyes were opened by his account of the development of the enterprise. Tim has appeared on TV's Countryfile and The Dragons' Den where Deborah Meaden pointed the way forward for him with his acoustic "clouds" which reduce reverberations in echoey rooms.

The firm now produces acoustic solutions around the country, and the couple brought attractive samples of the sound absorbent wool clouds, screens and wall panels available in numerous colors and styles. However, this success has often been one of two steps forward and one step back, but Tim's entrepreneurial spirit has enabled him to overcome the problems that beset him, and he has built a business with noteworthy achievements.

An inspiring evening for all.

Smeatharpe WI

THE ladies of Smeatharpe WI are rarely as well turned-out as they were for their August meeting.

The evening began with a presentation from Liz Tucker and Teresa Summerhayes, who had been the group's representatives at both the WI Centenary Garden Party at Buckingham Palace and the celebration meeting at the Albert Hall attended by the Queen.

They were both wearing the lovely outfits with hats that they had worn then, and to keep them company the other members wore their finest garden-party attire.

They gave members a full and entertaining account of their trip to London, with photographs, and including memorabilia for everyone to look at.

As they left the Albert Hall the delegates had been given slices of celebration cake to take home, so Liz and Teresa had baked and prepared a beautifully presented slice of fruit cake for each of the members.

This was followed by Pimms and Pavlova for all.

The final part of the meeting took the form of a poetry reading, with some members reading their own choices, and others being read by talented guest Penelope Moore.

The next meeting is at 7.30pm on September 3rd at Smeatharpe Village Hall when Martin Turner will be talking about hedge laying.

Visitors are always welcome.

Sampford Arundel WI

"WELL, I never knew that!"

That was a refrain often heard when members of Sampford Arundel were shown round Wellington last month in spite of, between them, living in Wellington for many, many years.

Colin Spackman showed how you could tell the age of a property, and even some of its history from such fine details as brick-work or the shape of windows – even the numbers of panes in a sash window.

They stopped just briefly at the church to be shown a bench-mark – a means for surveyors to measure heights. "Supported" houses built after the First World War fit for heroes came with large gardens, now filled in with other houses as the need to feed ones own family ceased.

Members had many suggestions for why the roly-poly got its name – a favourite being the idea of babies rolling out from the near-by former maternity home.

On the way back to the High Street they noted the very latest inadvertent change to the town – a lorry, guided allegedly by a sat nav had broken a wall and hedge.

Fortunately, Colin was his own excellent sat nav, as they arrived unscathed into the town, to round off the evening with a convivial meal and chat.

Hemyock WI

IN July, Hemyock WI entered the competition for a combined effort to depict "This Green and Pleasant Land" which was held at the Mid Devon Show Ground.

Despite having some very high individual marks, they only managed to tie in sixth place. However, it was a lot of fun and members will try again next year.

Instead of a normal August Meeting, members visited Otter

Breweries in Luppitt.

This visit was very informative as well as enjoyable. Members had a tour of the site where all the different procedures were explained.

They were able to taste the various barley varieties, peer into shiny steel vats and see the brewing at different stages. The evening concluded with a splendid barbecue when the final results of

the brewing process was sampled.

The Otter Brewery also produces a high quality lager which went very well with delicious meats and salads.

The meeting on September 1st will be back in Forbes Lounge when Heather Penwarden will give a talk on "Dementia Awareness". The competitions will be for a flower of the month and three cup cakes.



■ SOME of the members of Hemyock WI at Otter Brewery.

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MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only, and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions. Terms and conditions apply, participating dealers only or visit www.peugeot.co.uk. To finance your lease we may introduce you to a limited number of lenders. #Passport Personal Lease: A guarantee may be required. Over 18s only. Truscotts Honiton is acting as a credit broker and is not a lender. Finance provided by and written quotations available from PSA Finance UK Ltd t/a Peugeot Financial Services, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Redhill, RH1 1QA. All offers available on qualifying vehicles ordered and registered between 01/07/15 and 30/09/15 or until such time as they may be withdrawn by Peugeot at its complete discretion. 108 Active 3dr 1.0 68, customer initial rental £1,408.32, optional final rental £5,129. 2008 Active PureTech 1.2 VTI including metallic paint, includes £700 initial rental contribution, customer initial rental £2,500, optional final rental £6,887. 308 Active 1.2 L PureTech 110 S & S including metallic paint, includes £700 initial rental contribution on petrol models only, customer initial rental £2,699.93, optional final rental £7,054. 35 monthly rentals payable. 6,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage charges may apply. If you choose to pay the optional final rental, you can pay an annual rental equivalent to one of your monthly rentals but will not own the car. Ownership is possible with Passport – ask us for details. Calls may be recorded for training purposes. Information correct at time of going to press. *Three years' free servicing offer is for 308 Hatch (excluding SW) models ordered between 1st July 2015 and 30th September 2015. Offers apply to qualifying retail customers only. Price includes VAT. Servicing offer is available in conjunction with all other consumer offers. Please speak to your local Peugeot Dealer for full details. Servicing element includes: scheduled servicing (including pollen filters) and brake & engine oil if replaced at the intervals stipulated by the Manufacturer, together with all associated labour costs. Wear parts are excluded. Expires at 36 months or 30,000 miles (whichever occurs sooner). Start date for Servicing is original date of vehicle registration. Full details of the terms and conditions will be supplied when placing the vehicle order. Details correct at time of going to print. Peugeot Motor Company PLC reserve the right to amend or withdraw this offer at any time.



Reader Offers

Quality holidays & breaks
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Call the Midwife

*Includes a visit to the ancient city
of Canterbury*

**2 days from £135.00,
19 June, 14 August & 9 October 2016**

Visit the filming location of the hugely popular *Call the Midwife* TV series. At London's Historic Dockyard, Chatham, you will be greeted by your very own 'midwife' and taken on a guided tour of some of the locations featured in the series. You'll also enjoy a visit to the ancient city of Canterbury, a world famous UNESCO Heritage Site which has been welcoming pilgrims since 1170.

Highlights & inclusions

- A visit to historic Canterbury
- A visit with entrance to London's Historic Dockyard in Chatham, including a 90-minute guided Call the Midwife walking tour
- One night's bed and continental

breakfast accommodation at a good hotel in the Kent area

- Coach travel from the local area
- Escorted by a friendly tour manager

*Book by 31 August 2015. Please quote code CCHSPEC. £10 reduction is off the price shown above. Offer may be withdrawn at any time.

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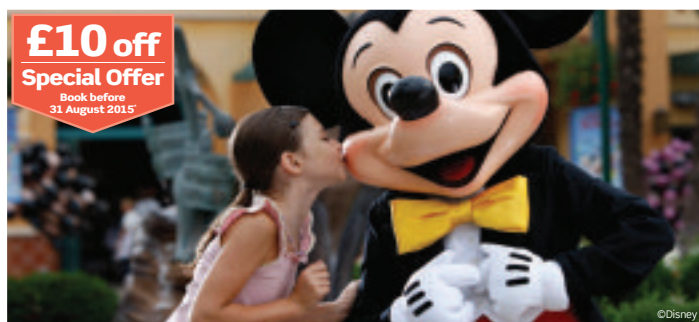
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These unbeatable value, hugely popular breaks at 'peak season' are ideal for families. Spend a full day enjoying all the magic and wonder of Disneyland® Paris, where wonders truly never cease – two magical theme parks just waiting to be discovered!

Highlights & inclusions

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- The services of a Newmarket Representative

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31 August 2015*



Paris & The Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe

Excitement and Glamour in the City of Light
3 days from £195.00, 3 October 2015

Enjoy the excitement and glamour as the Parisian glitterati and punters from across the globe gather in the Bois de Boulogne for Europe's richest horse race.

Highlights & inclusions

- Admission to the Prix de l'Arc
- A visit to the Latin Quarter in Paris
- Two nights' bed and continental breakfast accommodation at a three-star hotel in the Greater

- Paris area
- Coach travel from the local area and Channel crossings
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Tall Ships in Antwerp

A fun-filled maritime break

4 days from £289.00, 8 July 2016

Up to 100 stunning vessels with their graceful lines, towering masts and miles of rigging bedecked with colourful bunting, will visit the historic maritime city of Antwerp – a truly breath-taking and memorable sight!

Highlights & inclusions

- Visits to Antwerp to see Tall Ships, including the Parade of Sail
- Visits to Ghent and Bruges
- Three night's bed and continental breakfast accommodation in the Brussels area

- Coach travel from the local area and return Channel crossings
- Escorted by a friendly tour manager

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Battlefields of World War One

A fascinating journey retracing events of WW1

4 days from £239.00, Sept 2015, Aug & Oct 2016

Retrace the events of the Great War, visiting some of the most poignant and important sites of the Somme and Ypres Salient.

Highlights & inclusions

- Full day exploration of the Somme
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- Three nights' bed and continental breakfast

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what's on

in and around the Blackdown Hills

Village street fayre to be bigger and better than ever

CHARDSTOCK Street Fayre returns on Saturday September 5th and promises to be even bigger and better than ever.

Organised in conjunction with Chardstock Vintage Tractor and Machinery Club, and St Andrews Church there will be displays of vintage tractors, stationary engines, classic and competition cars and motor-bikes, various other displays, street entertainment, dog show, stalls, competitions, exhibitions, food, live music and much, much more.

Publicity officer Graham Vyse said: "We have a real treat for lovers of jazz standards this year, as we're joined for a relaxed lunchtime set of soulful jazz tunes by Maggie Reeday and her trio.

"Maggie is one of the country's finest interpreters of the classic jazz songbook, and her smoky voice lends itself beautifully to heartfelt ballads and blues."

Chardstock Street Fayre will start at 11am and continue late into the evening.

Admission will be £2.50 for adults (children under 16 free).

Proceeds will be donated to Hospiscare, ARC Axminster, Cancer Research and other local good causes.

Mr Vyse added: "Join us in Chardstock, for what is always a great day with something to offer for the whole family.

"This is a massive event in the life of Chardstock and we are always in need of helpers.

"If you feel that you would like to get involved in the

preparations or assist on the day, even if it is only for an hour or two, please contact Sarah Williamson on chardstocksf@outlook.com or phone 01460 261141."

Since its foundation in 1999 the Chardstock Street Fayre team has raised almost £50,000 which has been used to support local good causes.

Charity anniversary ball

IT'S time to get your glad rags on and dress to impress as Ferne Animal Sanctuary in Wambrook, near Chard, Somerset prepare to celebrate with a 75th Anniversary Ball on Saturday, September 19th at Woodlands Castle, Ruishton in Taunton.

The event promises to be one to remember, with surprises throughout the evening. In addition, a Grand Draw will be taking place with the first prize being a £1,000 kindly donated by Acheson Construction.

Somerset Photographic will be in attendance with their portable photography studio taking professional portraits on the night.

There will also be a table magician, a disco and dancing to AJ's Caravan Band. Tickets are £50 each which includes a three-course meal with wine; tables of 10 are discounted to £450.

Tickets for the ball and grand draw are now on sale at the Sanctuary or by calling Ferne on 01460 65214, www.ferneanimalsanctuary.org.



Blackdown Hills at Honiton Show



■ PICTURED are just a few of the many businesses from the Blackdown Hills which were represented at this year's Honiton Show.

The Blackdown Hills Business Association welcomed thousands of visitors through its marquee, which celebrated the many businesses located in the Blackdown Hills.

Photos courtesy of Val Baker from BHBA.



Learn to sing with Blackdown Community Choir

ARE you looking for a new activity this Autumn? Perhaps the opportunity to take part in a song workshop will inspire you to join your local community choir where new challenges and friendships await you.

This September, Blackdown Community Choir is holding a Song Workshop to enjoy an evening of singing together.

Choirs bring communities together and give everyone a great sense of achievement.

Music has the ability to relax

the mind and body, to release the stresses and strains of everyday life and to cast aside anxieties, allowing us to "envelop ourselves in the moment".

The Choir, led by Caroline Rigby, has a motto "If you can talk you can sing".

There are no auditions to join and we are always happy to welcome new members.

The workshop will give people the opportunity to experience the thrilling sound of singing in harmony for themselves, and

taste the flavour of a community choir.

Anyone over 16 can come along to the workshop - just put the date in your diary and come along, a warm welcome awaits you!

The workshop will take place on Thursday, September 17th at 7.30pm at Baptist Church Centre, South Street, Wellington.

It will cost £5 to take part. Contact 01823-275040 for more information.

bh
ba

Blackdown Hills
Business Association

Annual Dinner & AGM

Thursday, 15
October 2015

6pm AGM, 7pm Annual Dinner

at the
Monkton Court Hotel,
Monkton, near Honiton,
Devon EX14 9QH

£24.50 per head

Main Course

8hrs Cooked Confit Duck Leg

Served on Moroccan Spiced Puy Lentils & Seasonal Vegetables

OR

Seabass Fillet

On Salmon Cake, Chardonnay & Chive Beurre Blanc Sauce

OR

Slow Roasted Belly of Pork

Stuffed with Black Pudding with Apple Mash,
Creamed Cabbage & Cider Jus

OR

Risotto of Roasted Butternut Squash & Wild Mushroom

With Cured Tomato & Shaved Parmesan Salad

Dessert

Brioche Bread & Butter Pudding

With Vanilla Ice Cream

OR

Rich Dark 70% Chocolate & Banana Steamed Pudding

Served with Chocolate Fudge Sauce

OR

Sticky Toffee Pudding

Served with Toffee Sauce & Devon Clotted Cream

OR

Creamy Vanilla Rice Pudding

With Plum Compote

OR

White Chocolate & Baileys Cheesecake

With Baileys Ice Cream

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West Country Cheeseboard

++++

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Blackdown Hills Christmas Marquee at Castle Green, Taunton

Friday, 11 December to Sunday, 20 December.

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For more details go to the BHBA website at www.bhba.org.uk
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Membury, nr Axminster

£555,555

Stunning 5 bedroom or 4 bedroom & annex former Chapel located in this small Hamlet around 3 miles from Taunton Centre. The extremely well-presented accommodation is ideally suited to those who would like to move into readymade home. Lovely gardens and plenty of driveway parking. EPC: C



Knole

£865,000

Period thatched 4 bedroom house with ancillary accommodation of a single storey barn conversion and a two storey studio cottage. Along with around 3 acres of paddocks and stables. The grounds have a lake and millstream running through. No onward chain. EPC: N/A



Churchinford

SOLD (STC)

Immaculately presented detached bungalow in popular Blackdown Hills Village. Recently SOLD STC. The property attracted great attention therefore we have many disappointed buyers looking for homes in the entire region. If you are thinking of selling please call our Taunton Town offices to arrange a FREE VALUATION. (01823) 252500.



Beercrocombe

£399,950

A detached four bedroomed family cottage set within 0.17 acres with a westerly facing garden extending to over 55 meters/180 feet and is located in this popular village around 8 miles from Taunton centre. The very well-presented family accommodation sits on an excellent wide plot and backs directly onto farmland. Views to the Blackdown Hills across fields. Accommodation comprising: Ent Porch, Living Room, Study, 28ft Conservatory, Snug, Kitchen Breakfast Room, Utility Porch & Ground Floor bathroom, Four bedrooms and a family bathroom. There is a detached oak framed garage with side log store.



Curland

SOLD (STC)

Recently sale agreed (Joint Sole Agent). Most attractive conversion of Village chapel offer extremely well-presented accommodation and with annexe/ holiday let. We have many buyers looking for period homes in this beautiful area - if you are considering a sale and would like to benefit from a FREE VALUATION please call our TAUNTON TOWN OFFICES ON (01823) 252500



Ashill / Beercrocombe

OIEO £450,000

Two bedroom character cottage with open-plan living accommodation and large annexe to the side with conservatory. Various outbuildings to include stables and barns. Outside there are 2 paddocks, cottage garden and full size all weather ménage. In all around 2.75 acres. Completely screened from the road an ideal work from home property. Situated in a small Hamlet around 5-6 miles from Taunton.

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South Petherton - £550,000

**** Equestrian Property**** A charming detached barn conversion in the picturesque hamlet of Compton Durville, 1 mile from the town of South Petherton. Entrance hall/Dining room, sitting room with wood burner, kitchen/breakfast room with Aga, utility room, master bedroom suite, 2 further double bedrooms, bathroom, garage, 2 stables, ménage, gardens and paddocks totalling 2.37 acres. EPC D.



Lydmarsh £565,000

An extremely spacious 5 bedroom bungalow set in its own gardens and grounds in this quiet location just outside Chard. Comprises: entrance hall, sitting room, kitchen/diner, 5 bedrooms, family bathroom, utility room, huge loft space, double garage with workshop, office/summerhouse, gravel driveway, gardens and paddock totalling approximately 1.55 acres.



Marsh - £349,950

A rare opportunity to purchase 2 cottages under the same title in the village of Marsh, nestled in the Blackdown Hills area of Natural Beauty. Ivy Cottage consists of 3 bedrooms and is attached to Rose Cottage which is a 1 bedroom. Rose cottage is currently rented out but could be utilised as an annex as there is access from the main cottage through. The property benefits from double glazing throughout.



Hinton St George - £339,950

A charming character cottage in this much sought after village, constructed of local stone with newly thatched roof and hardwood double glazed windows. Comprises: Sitting room with inglenook fireplace, kitchen, rear lobby, cloakroom/utility, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, and a rear garden with a useful outside store. The property benefits from gas central heating and hardwood double glazed windows throughout.



Hewood, Thornecombe - £179,950

A charming 1 bedroom Grade 2 listed cottage in the exclusive hamlet of Hewood near Thornecombe. The property has been run as a successful holiday let for a number of years prior to coming on the market. Comprises: Entrance porch, sitting room/dining room, kitchen, 1 bedroom, bathroom with bath and shower above, garden, outside store and parking.



Shepton Beauchamp £179,950

An immaculately presented detached four double bedroom house, situated on the edge of a popular village. Accommodation comprises: Five double bedrooms, master en-suite, family bathroom, lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen, utility room, cloakroom, garden, garage and driveway. The property benefits from oil fired central heating, double glazing and a feature open fire. EPC E.

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As members of the Guild of Professional Estate Agents, our properties are marketed through the Guild's prestigious offices in Park Lane London throughout the year. However in addition we hold regular Somerset Property Exhibitions during which we completely take over and staff the Guild's offices. This provides us with a unique opportunity to sit down with London Buyers and discuss their individual requirements, effectively taking our property portfolio to London.

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